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(54) **SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR MANAGING OPERATING MODES OF AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE**

USPC ..... 701/457, 410; 345/619; 370/389, 390,  
370/352, 329, 338; 342/450  
See application file for complete search history.

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**48/04** (2013.01); **H04W 88/02** (2013.01);  
**H04W 84/12** (2013.01)

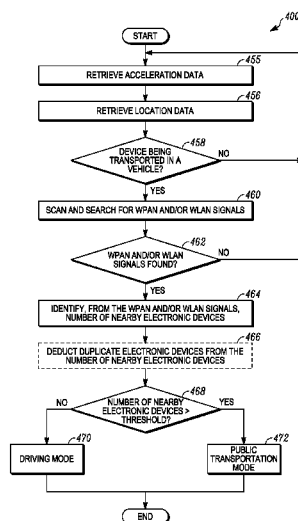
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H04W 24/08; H04W 88/02; H04W 88/00;  
H04W 48/18; H04W 84/12; H04W 88/06;  
H04W 4/04; G01C 218/00; G01G 5/363;  
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Embodiments are provided for distinguishing certain transportation modes for an electronic device based on connection signal data. According to certain aspects, the electronic device may determine (458) that it is being transported by a vehicle. The electronic device searches or detects (460) nearby WLAN and/or WPAN signals and identifies (464), based on the detected signals, how many devices are nearby the electronic device. The electronic device compares (468) the number of nearby devices to a threshold amount and, based on the comparison, either initiates (472) a public transportation mode or initiates (470) a driving mode.

**17 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets**



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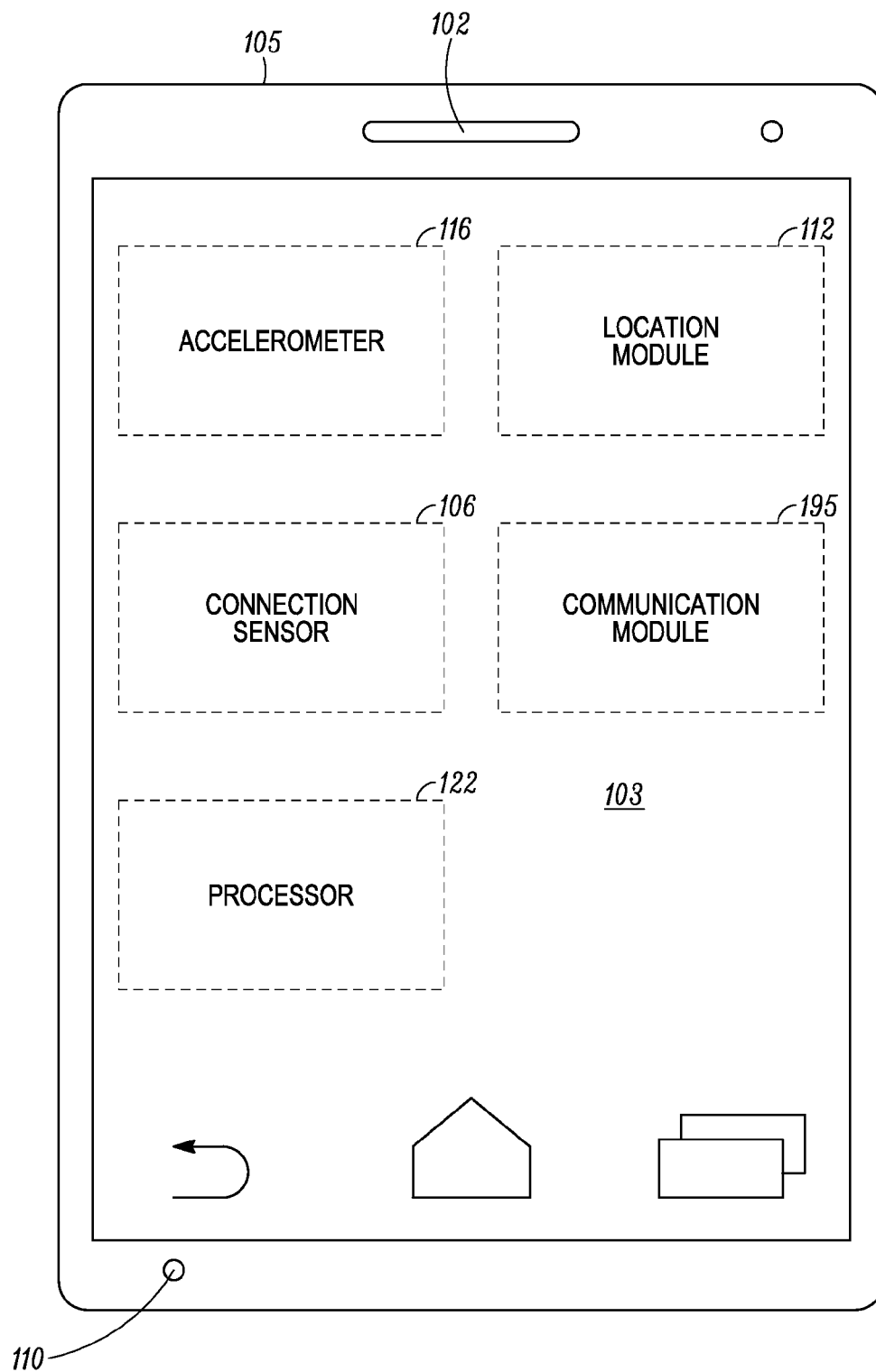


FIG. 1

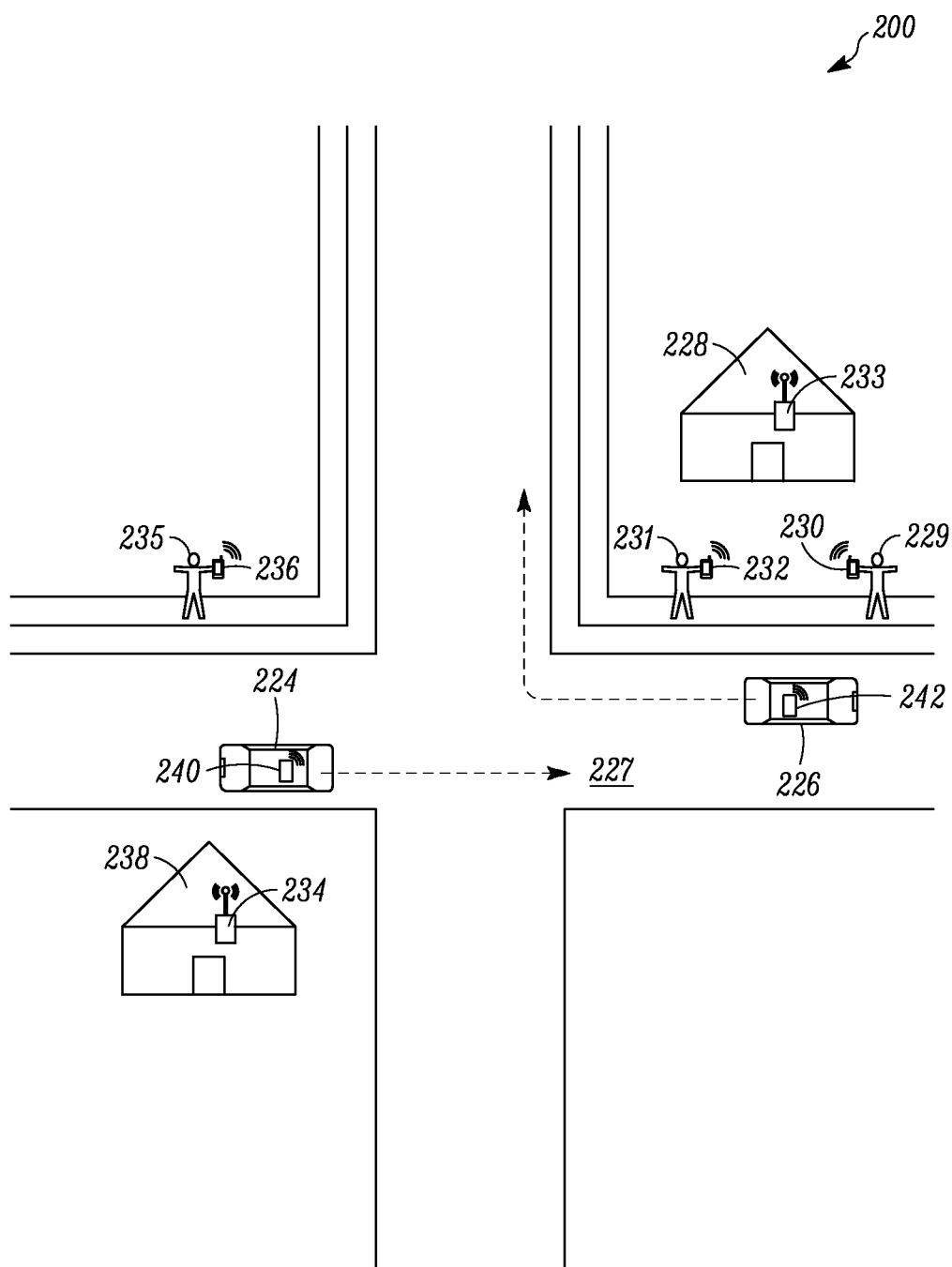


FIG. 2

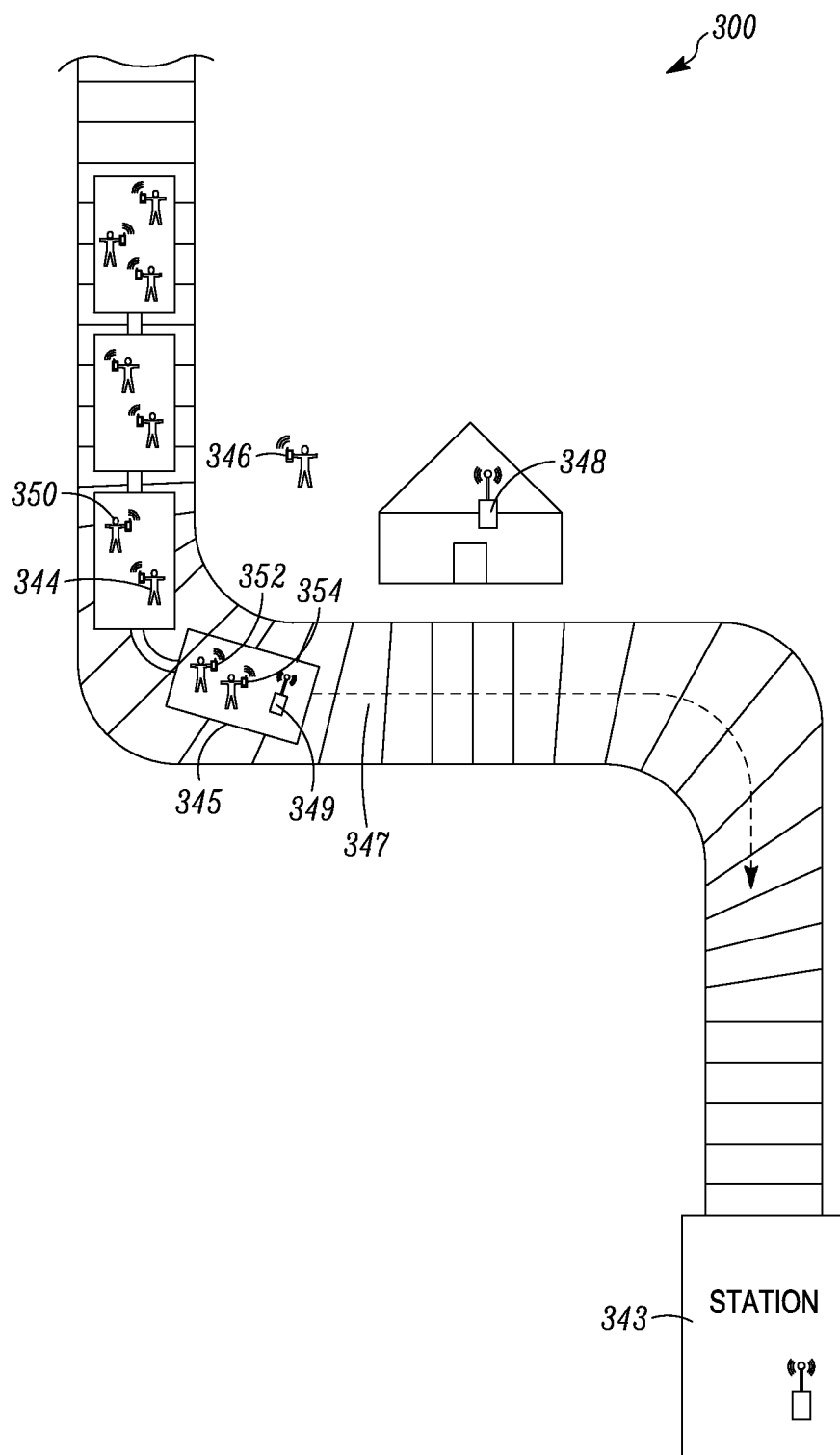


FIG. 3

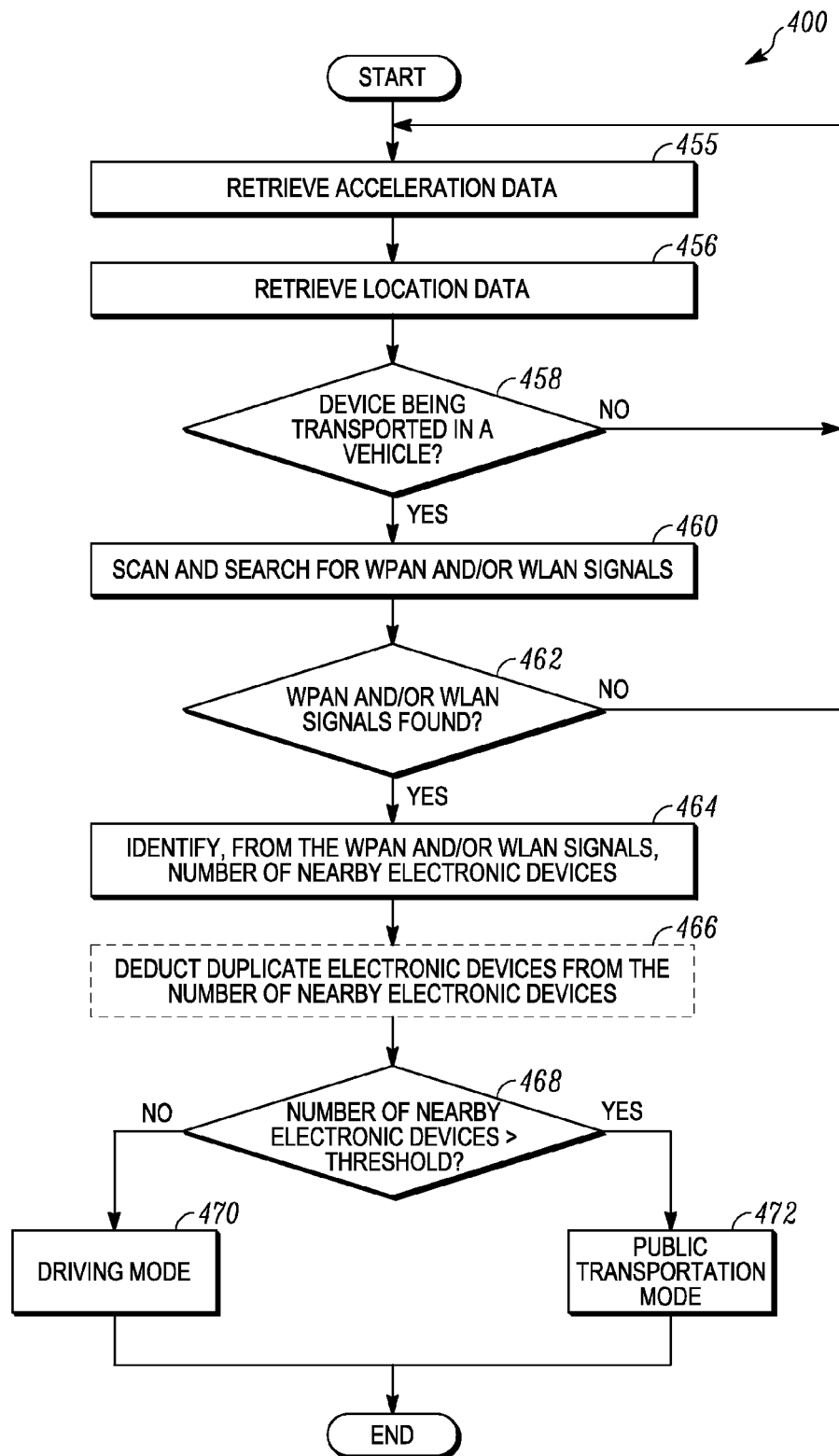
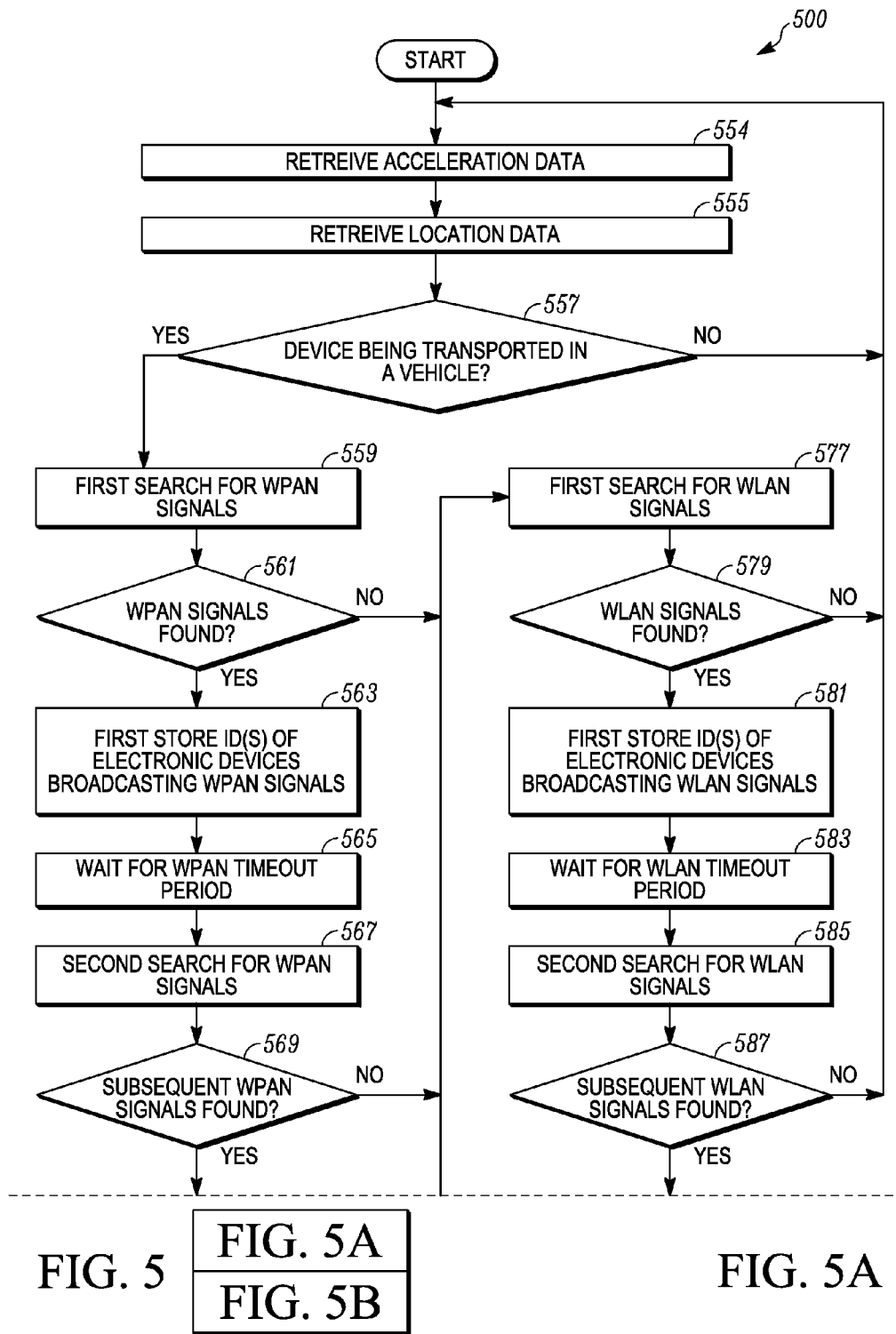


FIG. 4



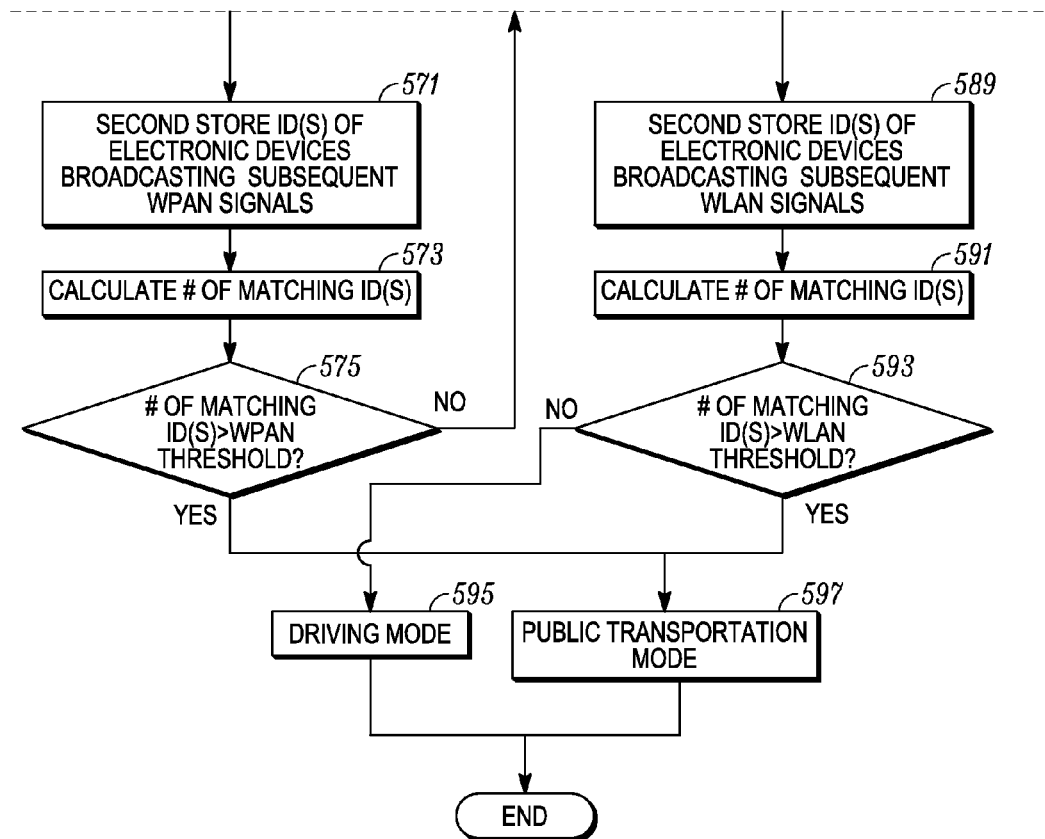


FIG. 5B

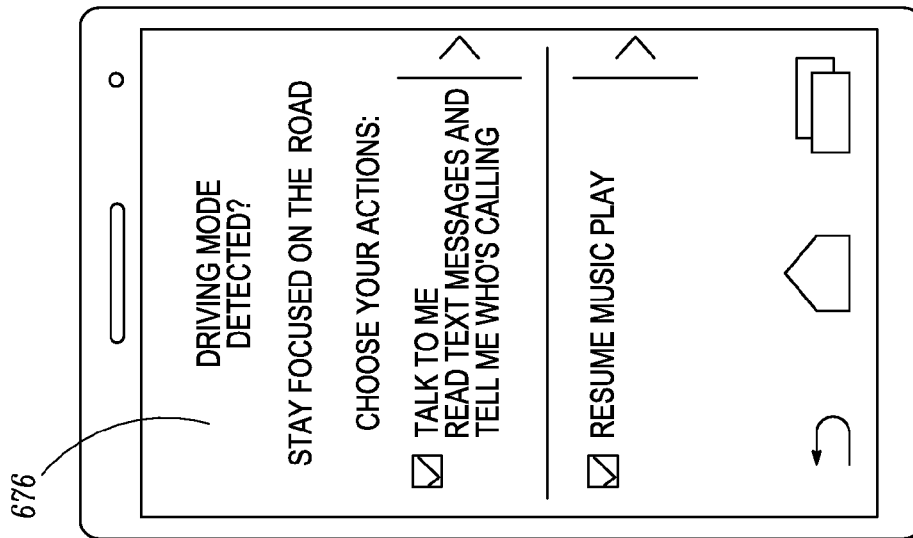


FIG. 6

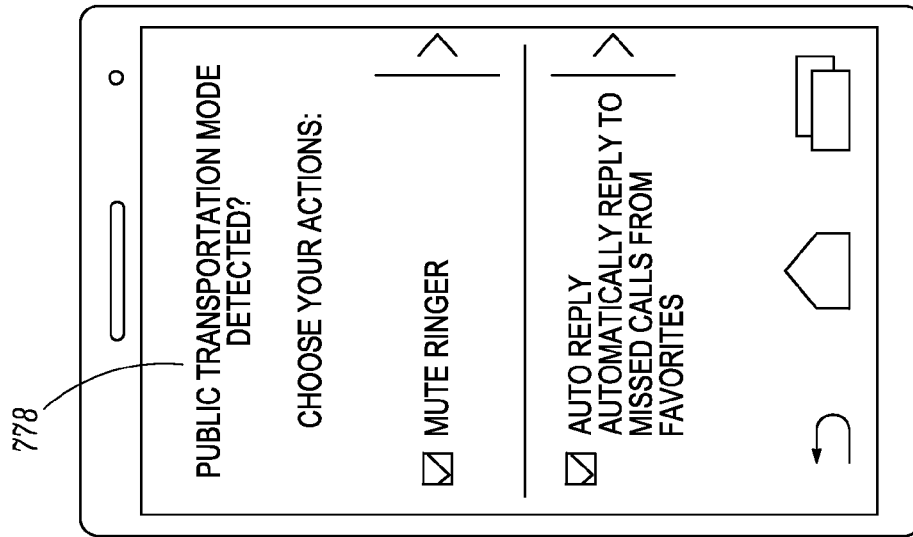


FIG. 7

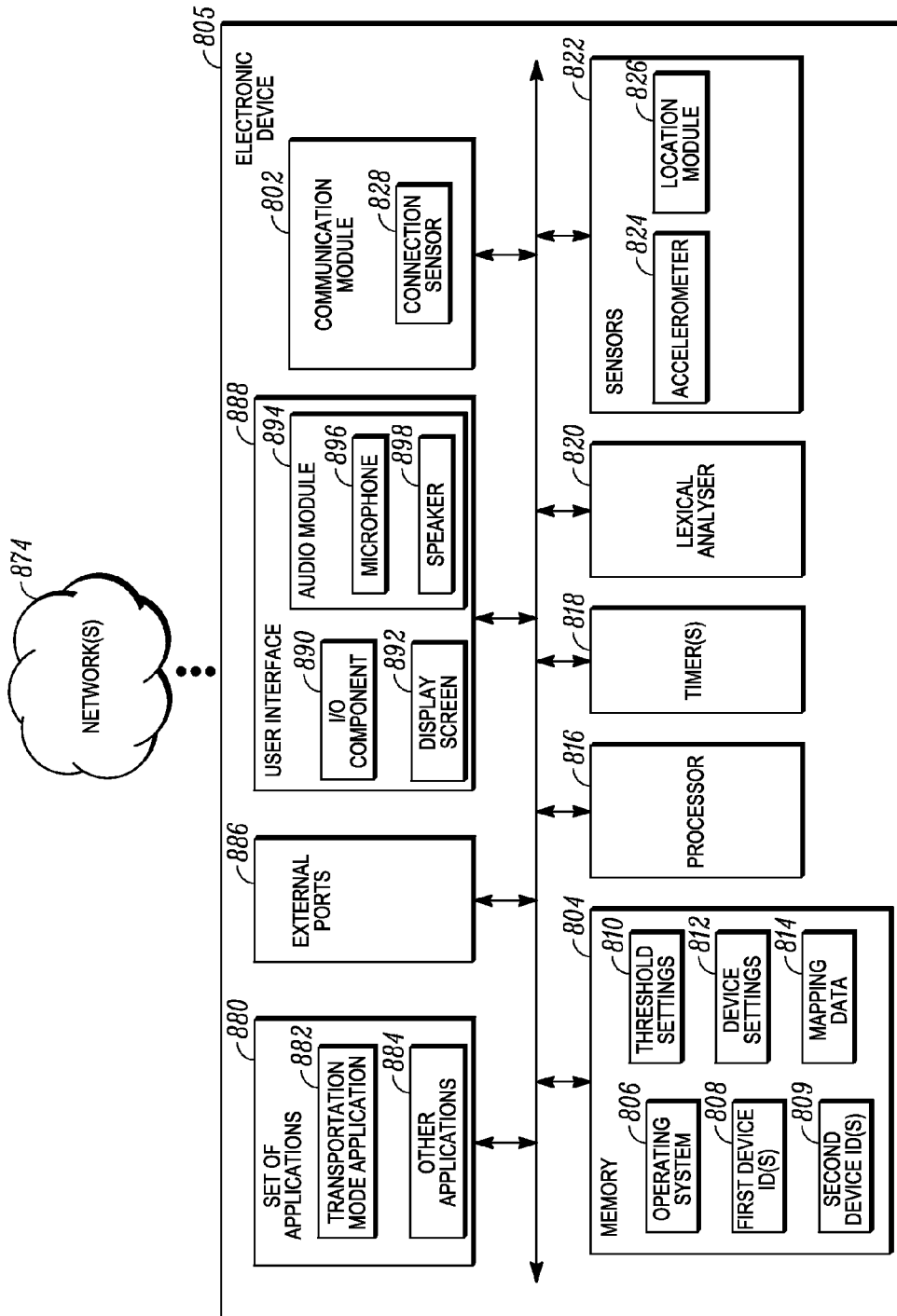


FIG. 8

1

## SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR MANAGING OPERATING MODES OF AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE

### FIELD

This application generally relates to managing operating modes of electronic devices. In particular, the application relates to platforms and techniques for determining a mode of transportation of an electronic device based on received connection signal data, and initiating a corresponding operating mode based on the mode of transportation.

### BACKGROUND

As features and applications of electronic devices such as smart phones are improved, users are increasingly more willing to bring their electronic devices with them during travel. For example, users often have electronic devices in the car when commuting or on their person when exercising. Various applications exist to modify certain operating modes of electronic devices based on the state or condition of the electronic devices. For example, an electronic device may recognize when its user is in a meeting and may silence incoming calls and/or auto reply to missed calls.

In some cases, an electronic device may recognize when it is being transported, such as when it is in a vehicle. In these situations, the electronic device may modify its operating mode by audibly reciting text messages and identifications of incoming callers, or initiating audio playback when the vehicle is in motion. However, there are situations in which the electronic device is being transported by a vehicle but its user may not want certain of these features. For example, the user may not want audible text message recitation when the user is traveling via public transportation. Current techniques in electronic devices are not able to distinguish when the electronic device is being transported via private transportation (e.g., a user's vehicle) from when the electronic device is being transported via public transportation (e.g., a train).

Accordingly, there is an opportunity for techniques and analyses to distinguish between certain modes of transportation.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying figures, where like reference numerals refer to identical or functionally similar elements throughout the separate views, together with the detailed description below, are incorporated in and form part of the specification, and serve to further illustrate embodiments of concepts that include the claimed embodiments, and explain various principles and advantages of those embodiments.

FIG. 1 depicts an example electronic device capable of facilitating various operating modes and functionalities, in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 2 depicts an example scenario illustrating an electronic device being transported by a private vehicle, in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 3 depicts an example scenario illustrating an electronic device being transported via public transportation, in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 4 depicts a flow diagram of an electronic device detecting various modes of transportation and modifying operating modes corresponding thereto, in accordance with some embodiments.

2

FIGS. 5A and 5B depict an additional flow diagram of an electronic device detecting various modes of transportation and modifying operating modes corresponding thereto, in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 6 depicts an example user interface associated with a driving mode of an electronic device, in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 7 depicts an example user interface associated with a public transportation mode of an electronic device, in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 8 is a block diagram of an electronic device in accordance with some embodiments.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

With an increasing number of device features and applications, users are more willing and able to operate their electronic devices while in transit, such as during vehicle travel or onboard public transportation. Certain human interface features of the electronic devices are more useful or desirable during public transportation while other features of the electronic devices are more useful or desirable during private vehicle travel. For example, a user may want an electronic device to audibly output incoming text messages while traveling by private car; whereas the user may want a ringer of the electronic device to be silenced while traveling via public transportation.

According to certain aspects, an electronic device is configured to determine, using location data and acceleration data, when it is in being transported by a vehicle. Because the electronic device may not be able to accurately determine whether it is being transported by private vehicle or via public transportation using location data and acceleration data only, the electronic device is further configured to analyze signal data corresponding to signals that originate from nearby devices or components. In some cases, the signal data may include wireless personal area network (WPAN) signals and/or wireless local area network (WLAN) signals that are broadcast by nearby electronic devices. In other cases, the signal data may identify a nearby wireless access point for a local area network or the like.

Generally, the greater number of nearby electronic devices that are detected, the greater the chance that the electronic device is being transported via public transportation. Further, an access point that is detected both before and after a threshold period of time is an indication that the electronic device is being transported via public transportation. Moreover, the electronic device may be on public transportation if the same nearby electronic devices are detected in multiple instances in time. After determining the mode of transportation from the signal data, the electronic device may modify its operating mode accordingly. The embodiments discussed herein therefore offer the benefit of seamless and dynamic mode management for various transport environments, which improves the user experience. This benefit is especially important as users increasingly carry their electronic devices during transit.

As described herein, it should be understood that a private vehicle may refer to any type of vehicle (e.g., bicycle, car, van, motorcycle, etc.) that is commonly operated by an individual owner or by someone else having permission from the individual owner. In contrast, public transportation may refer to modes of transportation that are available to the public. For example, public transportation may include trains, busses, subways, airplanes, and the like.

FIG. 1 depicts an example electronic device 105 configured to detect various modes of transportation, and initiate

and facilitate various user interface operating modes depending on the mode of transportation. The electronic device **105** may be any type of portable electronic device, for example, a notebook computer, a mobile phone, a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA), a smart phone, a tablet computer, a multimedia player, an MP3 player, a digital broadcast receiver, a remote controller, a digital camera, a digital video recorder, or any other electronic apparatus.

The electronic device **105** may include a visual component **103** (e.g., a touchscreen or an electronic display) that is configured to display content. The electronic device **105** may also include one or more touch input components, such as a capacitive touch sensor integrated into a touchscreen or separate mechanical buttons, to receive or detect input from a user of the electronic device **105**. The electronic device **105** may further include audio components such as a speaker **102** (for audio output) and a microphone **110** (for audio input) that may operate in conjunction with the visual component **103**. Although the speaker **102** is illustrated in FIG. 1 as an “earpiece” speaker that is commonly utilized by the user during telephone calls or similar applications, it should be appreciated that electronic device **105** may alternatively or additionally include a “media” speaker capable of more output power. Further, it should be appreciated that the types, sizes, and locations of the speaker **102** and the microphone **110** are merely examples and that alternate or additional types, sizes, and locations are envisioned.

The electronic device **105** can include an accelerometer **116** configured to measure an acceleration or general movement of the electronic device **105** relative to gravity or momentum and generate resulting acceleration data. The accelerometer **116** may be a single- or multi-axis accelerometer that is capable of detecting magnitude and direction of the proper acceleration (e.g., g-force) of the electronic device **105**, and can be used to sense orientation, vibration, and/or other parameters. The electronic device **105** can additionally include a location module **112** that is configured to detect a location of the electronic device **105**. For example, the location module **112** may be a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver.

The electronic device **105** can further include various sensors configured to detect general environment data associated with the electronic device **105**. In particular, the electronic device **105** can include a connection sensor **106** that is configured to detect various wireless connection signals that originate from or are broadcast by nearby electronic devices or components. According to embodiments, the connection signals may include one or more wireless personal area network (WPAN) signals and/or one or more wireless local area network (WLAN) signals. The connection sensor **106** may be part of a communication module **195** configured to establish communication channels with nearby electronic devices or components. For example, the communication module **195** can connect to an access point associated with a WLAN. For further example, the communication module **195** can enable the electronic device **105** to connect to or “pair with” a WPAN device (e.g., a Bluetooth® device).

The electronic device **105** further includes a processor **122** that is configured to process signals and data associated with components of the electronic device **105** and facilitate various functions based on the signals and data. According to one particular functionality, the processor **122** is configured to analyze data from the accelerometer **116** and the location module **112** to determine whether the electronic device **105** is being transported by a vehicle. Further, the connection sensor **106** is configured to detect connection

signal data that is broadcast by WPAN or WLAN radios of nearby electronic devices. Through various logic, techniques, and algorithms, the processor **122** can analyze the detected sensor and signal data to determine a specific mode of transportation, such as whether the electronic device **105** is being transported by a private vehicle or via public transportation.

FIG. 2 depicts an example scenario **200** illustrating connection signal possibilities for an electronic device being transported by a private vehicle. As illustrated in FIG. 2, two private vehicles **224**, **226** are being driven on a roadway **227**. Further, there are two properties **228**, **238** (e.g., homes, commercial buildings, etc.), that are positioned near the roadway **227**. The property **228** has an access point **233** and the property **238** has an access point **234**, whereby the access points **233**, **234** enable wireless electronic devices to connect to a wired network using a WLAN (e.g., Wi-Fi or related standards) if the wireless electronic devices are within range of the access points **233**, **234**. The access points **233**, **234** are capable of broadcasting signals including the service set identification (SSID) that identifies the corresponding network.

The scenario **200** further depicts multiple individuals **229**, **231**, **235** each holding or carrying a respective electronic device **230**, **232**, **236** capable of wireless communications. In particular, the electronic devices **230**, **232**, **236** are each capable of various WWAN, WLAN, and/or WPAN communications. The electronic devices **230**, **232**, **236** therefore have corresponding WWAN, WLAN, and/or WPAN radios that may transmit signals and search for corresponding wireless networks for connection opportunities.

The signals transmitted by the electronic devices **230**, **232**, **236** may include various information such as, for example, an identification of the respective electronic device **230**, **232**, **236** (e.g., a MAC address), any access points that the respective electronic device **230**, **232**, **236** is connected to, the vendor of the respective electronic device **230**, **232**, **236**, the class (e.g., smartphone, handsfree, computer, LAN/network access point, etc.) of the respective electronic device **230**, **232**, **236**, and/or other data. When received, the signals may each have an associated strength (e.g., received signal strength indication (RSSI)) which may generally indicate the distance from the respective electronic device **230**, **232**, **236** to the device that detects the signals. In cases in which the electronic devices **230**, **232**, **236** are configured for WPAN communication (e.g., Bluetooth® communication), the signals may also include a WPAN address (i.e., a “friendly Bluetooth name”) of the respective electronic device **230**, **232**, **236**.

Each of the private vehicles **224**, **226** may be transporting a respective electronic device **240**, **242** (such as the electronic device **105** discussed with respect to FIG. 1). For example, a vehicle operator of the private vehicle **224** may have his or her smartphone mounted on the dashboard of the private vehicle **224**. The electronic devices **240**, **242** of the private vehicles **224**, **226** are configured to detect or otherwise sense the signals broadcast by nearby electronic devices or components. In particular, in the scenario **200**, the electronic devices **240**, **242** are configured to periodically scan for, detect, or otherwise receive the signals broadcast by the electronic devices **230**, **232**, **236** and the access points **233**, **234**.

According to embodiments, the electronic devices **240**, **242** may analyze the detected signals (generally, the communication signal data) and use other sensor information to determine a mode of transportation (i.e., determine how the respective electronic device **240**, **242** is being transported).

5

Generally, the fewer persistent WLAN and/or WPAN signals that the electronic devices **240**, **242** detect, the greater chance that the electronic devices **240**, **242** are being transported via private vehicle. This is generally true because there are typically more electronic devices present on public transportation (e.g., electronic devices of other passengers) than there are in the vicinity of a private vehicle at a given point in time.

The electronic devices **240**, **242** are further configured to periodically compare communication signals detected at an initial point in time to communication signals detected at a subsequent point in time. If electronic devices **240**, **242** detect, at multiple points in time, substantially different communication signals that correspond to different electronic devices or components, the greater chance that the electronic devices **240**, **242** are being transported via private vehicle. This contrasts with public transportation, when a given electronic device may detect the same electronic device at multiple points in time (e.g., if the electronic devices are all on the same train car), whereby an electronic device that is transported by a private vehicle may detect, at an initial time, electronic devices external to the private vehicle that the electronic device may pass by or otherwise fail to detect at a subsequent time.

Referring to FIG. 2, at a given point in time “A,” the electronic device **240** of the private vehicle **224** may detect the access point **234** as well as any communication signals broadcast by the electronic device **236**, and the electronic device **242** of the private vehicle **226** may detect the access point **233** as well as any communication signals broadcast by the electronic devices **232**, **230**. The number of detected connections signals (two for the electronic device **240** and three for the electronic device **242**) may be below a threshold value (e.g., four) corresponding to public transportation, and the electronic devices **240**, **242** may each deem that it is being transported via private vehicle.

At a subsequent point in time “B,” the vehicles **224**, **226** may have traveled a certain distance down the roadway **227** (e.g., the vehicle **224** travels through the intersection and the vehicle **226** makes a right-hand turn at the corner) such that the electronic device **240** may now detect communication signal(s) broadcast by the electronic device **232** and the electronic device **242** may now detect only the access point **233**. Accordingly, the devices and components detected by the respective electronic devices **240**, **242** across the points in time “A” and “B” are substantially different, and the electronic devices **240**, **242** may therefore each deem that it is being transported via private vehicle. It should be appreciated that the electronic devices **240**, **242** may determine mode of transportation via any combination of the analysis of the number of nearby devices or components or the analysis of the consistency of the detected signals at multiple points in time. In some embodiments, the electronic devices **240**, **242** may refine or “confirm” their transportation modes based on GPS location data. For example, if location data of the electronic device **240** does not (or does) coincide with a train track, bus lane, or the like, then the electronic device **240** may confirm that it is being transported via private vehicle (or via public transportation).

Referring to FIG. 3, depicted is an additional example scenario **300** illustrating connection signal possibilities for an electronic device being transported via public transportation. It should be appreciated that the scenario **300** as described herein is additional to a velocity and/or acceleration calculation as further described with respect to FIGS. 4 and 5. The scenario **300** depicts a train **345** transporting a plurality of individuals, whereby the train **345** includes

6

multiple train cars capable of traveling along a set of tracks **347**. Similar to the scenario **200** discussed with respect to FIG. 2, each of the electronic devices being transported by the train **345** (as shown: electronic devices **344**, **350**, **352**, **354**) may detect communication signals from other electronic devices being transported by the train **345** or from other devices or components within detectable range of each of the electronic devices.

For example, at a given point in time “A,” the electronic device **344** on the second car of the train **345** may detect respective communication signals broadcast by each of the electronic devices **350**, **352**, **354**, as well as a communication signal from an external electronic device **346** and an external access point **348**. The number of detected connections signals (four electronic devices and an access point) may be above a threshold value (e.g., four) corresponding to public transportation, and the electronic device **344** may therefore deem that it is being transported via public transportation.

At a subsequent point in time “B,” the train **345** may have traveled a distance down the set of tracks **347** such that the electronic device **344** may no longer detect the access point **348**, but will still detect communication signals from the electronic devices **350**, **352**, **354**. Accordingly, the devices and components detected by the electronic device **344** across the points in time “A” and “B” are substantially consistent (i.e., the electronic device **344** detects each of the electronic devices **350**, **352**, **354** at multiple points in time), and the electronic device **344** may therefore deem that it is being transported via public transportation. It should be appreciated that the electronic device **344** may determine mode of transportation via any combination of the analysis of the number of nearby devices or components or the analysis of the consistency of the detected signals at multiple points in time.

Generally, it is a further indication that the electronic device **344** is being transported via public transportation if the electronic device **344** consistently detects an access point across multiple points in time, as this indicates that the access point is associated with the public transportation. Referring to FIG. 3, the electronic device **344** may detect an access point **349** of the train **345** itself. In operation, after detecting the access point **349**, the electronic device can wait for a timeout period (e.g., ten (10) seconds, thirty (30) seconds, etc.), and then subsequently scan for and detect the access point **349** again. The signal broadcast by the access point **349** may include the SSID of the access point **349** and, in some embodiments, the electronic device **344** may perform a lexical analysis on the SSID to identify one or more terms, words, or phrases that may indicate that the access point **349** is associated with public transportation. For example, the SSID may contain generic terms or words such as “free,” “hotspot,” and/or the like; or may contain specific terms or words corresponding to known transit operators such as, for example, “CTA” (for Chicago Transit Authority), “BART” (for Bay Area Rapid Transit), or the like.

In further embodiments, the electronic device **344** may use GPS receiving information to interface with a maps database, or may otherwise access mapping data, as an additional factor to determine whether the electronic device **344** is being transported via public transportation. The maps database may include locations of various public transportation nodes (e.g., stations, bus routes, train tracks, etc.). The electronic device **344** can identify its location, such as via a location module **112**, retrieve mapping data related to the location, and determine whether there is an associated public transportation node indicated in the mapping data. For

example, referring to FIG. 3, if the train 345 enters a station 343, the electronic device 344 can retrieve mapping data associated with its location to determine that it is located in or near the station 343.

FIG. 4 is a flowchart of a method 400 for an electronic device (such as the electronic device 105) to detect various modes of transportation and to modify operating modes corresponding thereto. The order of the steps of the depicted flowchart of FIG. 4 can differ from the version shown, and certain steps can be eliminated, and/or certain other ones can be added, depending upon the implementation.

The method 400 begins with the electronic device retrieving 455 acceleration data. In particular, an application processor of the electronic device may retrieve the acceleration data from an accelerometer when a sensor hub (e.g., an auxiliary, low-power processor of the electronic device) determines possible vehicular movement based on acceleration data from the accelerometer. The application processor may also estimate or calculate an acceleration and a velocity of the electronic device based on the acceleration data. The electronic device (specifically, the application processor) can also retrieve 456 location data. In particular, the electronic device can retrieve the location data from a location module such as a GPS module, where the location data may be used to calculate an average velocity and acceleration of the electronic device. The average velocity calculated from the location data may be more accurate than the velocity calculated from the acceleration data.

The electronic device can determine 458, based on the location data and the acceleration data, whether the electronic device is being transported in a vehicle. Generally, when the location data, velocity, and acceleration data indicates particular movement and/or start/stop instances, then the chance increases that the electronic device is being transported in a vehicle. It should be appreciated that the electronic device supports various calculations, techniques, and algorithms to determine or to deem when it is being transported in a vehicle.

If the electronic device determines that it is not being transported in a vehicle ("NO"), processing can return to 455 or to any other functionality, such as normal or default functionality. If the electronic device determines that it is being transported in a vehicle ("YES"), the electronic device can scan and search 460 for WPAN and/or WLAN signals originating from nearby devices. As discussed herein, any WPAN and/or WLAN signals originating from nearby devices may include various information such as an identification of the respective device (e.g., a MAC address) or a WPAN address (i.e., a "friendly Bluetooth name"). The received signals may also each have an associated strength (i.e., RSSI) which may indicate the distance from the receiving electronic device to the electronic device that transmitted the signal.

The electronic device can determine 462 if any WPAN and/or WLAN signals are found. If the electronic device determines that no WPAN and/or WLAN signals are found ("NO"), processing can return to 456 or to any other functionality, such as normal or default functionality. If the electronic device detects any WPAN and/or WLAN signals ("YES"), the electronic device can identify 464, from the WPAN and/or WLAN signals, a number of nearby electronic devices. In particular, the electronic device can examine any device identifications included in the detected signals (e.g., MAC address, WPAN address) to tally the number of devices that originate the WPAN and/or WLAN signals. In an optional embodiment, the electronic device can deduct 466 any duplicate electronic devices from the number of

nearby electronic devices. In particular, the electronic device may detect both a WPAN signal and a WLAN signal that are broadcast from the same device (i.e., the MAC address and the WPAN address correspond to the same device). In these cases, the electronic device may count this device as a single device versus two devices, and may update the number of nearby electronic devices accordingly. For example, if the electronic device detects eight (8) WLAN signals and four (4) WPAN signals, but the electronic device determines that two of the devices broadcast both a WLAN signal and a WPAN signal, then the electronic device can determine that there are ten (10) total devices.

The electronic device can determine 468 if the number of nearby electronic devices exceeds a threshold amount. It should be appreciated that the threshold amount may be a default number, a weighted value, or may be adjusted by a user or operator of the electronic device. For example, the threshold amount may be three (3), five (5), seven (7), or another amount. Generally, the greater the number of nearby electronic devices, the greater the chance that the electronic device is being transported via public transportation, as there will be more devices in proximity to the electronic device. If the electronic device determines that the number of nearby electronic devices exceeds the threshold amount ("YES"), the electronic device can deem that it is being transported via public transportation and can initiate 472 a public transportation mode where speaker output is muted. In contrast, if the electronic device determines that the number of nearby electronic devices does not meet or exceed the threshold amount ("NO"), the electronic device can deem that it is being transported via private vehicle and can initiate 470 a driving mode where speaker functionality is enabled.

FIGS. 5A and 5B show a flowchart of another method 500 for an electronic device (such as the electronic device 105) to detect various modes of transportation and to modify operating modes corresponding thereto. The method 500 may be an alternative to the method 400 discussed with respect to FIG. 4. The order of the steps of the depicted flowchart of FIGS. 5A and 5B can differ from the version shown, and certain steps can be eliminated, and/or certain other ones can be added, depending upon the implementation.

The method 500 begins with the electronic device retrieving 554 acceleration data and retrieving 555 location data. In particular, an application processor of the electronic device may retrieve the acceleration data from an accelerometer when a sensor hub (e.g., an auxiliary, low-power processor of the electronic device) determines possible vehicular movement based on acceleration data from the accelerometer. The application processor may also estimate or calculate an acceleration and a velocity of the electronic device based on the acceleration data. The application processor can also retrieve the location data from a location module such as a GPS module, where the location data may be used to calculate an average velocity and acceleration of the electronic device. The average velocity calculated from the location data may be more accurate than the velocity calculated from the acceleration data.

The electronic device can determine 557, based on the location data and/or the acceleration data, whether the electronic device is being transported above a certain speed and infer that the electronic device is in a vehicle. Generally, when the location data and acceleration data indicates sustained movement above a given velocity and/or start/stop instances matching a vehicular signature, then the chance that the electronic device is being transported in a vehicle increases. It should be appreciated that the electronic device

supports various calculations, techniques, and algorithms to determine or to deem when it is being transported in a vehicle.

If the electronic device determines **557** that it is not being transported in a vehicle (“NO”), processing can return to **554** or to any other functionality, such as normal or default functionality. If the electronic device determines that it is being transported in a vehicle (“YES”), the electronic device can scan and search **559** for WPAN signals originating from nearby devices. As discussed herein, any WPAN signals originating from nearby devices may include various information such as an identification of the respective device (e.g., a MAC address) or a WPAN address (i.e., a “friendly Bluetooth name”). The detected signals may also each have an associated strength (e.g., RSSI) which may roughly indicate a distance from the electronic device that detected the signal to the device that emitted the signal.

The electronic device can determine **561** if any WPAN signals are found. If the electronic device determines that no WPAN signals are found (“NO”), processing can proceed to **577**. If the electronic device detects WPAN signals (“YES”), the electronic device can store **563** the identification(s) of electronic device(s) broadcasting the WPAN signal(s). In particular, for each detected signal, the electronic device can store a MAC address or WPAN device name included in the detected signal. The electronic device can pause or wait **565** for a designated WPAN timeout period. In embodiments, the WPAN timeout period may be a default value (e.g., one (1), five (5) or ten (10) minutes, etc.) or may be set by a user or operator of the electronic device.

After the WPAN timeout period, the electronic device can scan and search **567** again for WPAN signals. In embodiments, any of these WPAN signals may originate from the same device(s) as the WPAN signals detected in **559** or may originate from other devices. The electronic device can determine **569** whether any new or subsequent WPAN signals are detected or found. If the electronic device does not detect any WPAN signals (“NO”) at this time, processing can proceed to **577**. If the electronic device detects new or subsequent WPAN signals (“YES”), the electronic device can store **571** the identification(s) of electronic device(s) broadcasting the new or subsequent WPAN signal(s). In particular, for each detected signal, the electronic device can store a MAC address or WPAN device name included in the detected signal.

The electronic device can calculate **573** a number of matching identification(s) between the first set of detected WPAN signals and the subsequent set of detected WPAN signals. In particular, the electronic device can compare the initial set of stored identification(s) to the subsequent set of stored identification(s) to determine how many of the initial identification(s) and the subsequent identification(s) match. The electronic device can then determine **575** if the number of matching identification(s) exceeds a corresponding WPAN threshold. It should be appreciated that the WPAN threshold may be a default amount (e.g., one, three, or five matches, etc.) or may be adjusted by a user or operator of the electronic device. Generally, the greater the number of matching identification(s), the greater the chance that the electronic device is being transported via public transportation, as the nearby devices corresponding to the matching identifications will be in range of the electronic device before and after the WPAN timeout period. Accordingly, if the number of matching identification(s) exceeds the corresponding WPAN threshold, the electronic device can deem that it is being transported via public transportation and can initiate **597** a public transportation mode. In contrast, if the

electronic device determines that the number of matching identification(s) does not meet or exceed the corresponding WPAN threshold (“NO”), processing can proceed to **577**.

At **577**, the electronic device can search for WLAN signals originating from nearby devices. As discussed herein, any WLAN signals originating from nearby devices may include various information such as an identification of the respective device (e.g., a MAC address). The signals may also each have an associated strength (i.e., RSSI) which may generally indicate a distance from the respective device to the electronic device that detects the signal.

The electronic device can determine **579** if any WLAN signals are found. If the electronic device determines that no WLAN signals are found (“NO”), processing can return to **554** or to any other functionality, such as normal or default functionality. If the electronic device detects any WLAN signals (“YES”), the electronic device can store **581** the identification(s) of electronic device(s) broadcasting the WLAN signal(s). In particular, for each detected signal, the electronic device can store a MAC address included in the detected signal. The electronic device can pause or wait **583** for a designated WLAN timeout period. In embodiments, the WLAN timeout period may be a default value (e.g., ten (10) seconds, thirty (30) seconds, etc.) or may be set by a user or operator of the electronic device. The WLAN timeout period may be the same or different from the WPAN timeout period **565**.

After the WLAN timeout period, the electronic device can search **585** again for WLAN signals. In embodiments, any of these WLAN signals may originate from the same devices as the WLAN signals detected in **577**, or may originate from other devices. The electronic device can determine **587** whether any new or subsequent WLAN signals are detected or found. If the electronic device does not detect any WLAN signals (“NO”) at this time, processing can return to **554** or to any other functionality, such as normal or default functionality. If the electronic device detects new or subsequent WLAN signals (“YES”), the electronic device can store **589** the identification(s) of electronic device(s) broadcasting the new or subsequent WLAN signal(s). In particular, for each detected signal, the electronic device can store a MAC address included in the detected signal.

The electronic device can calculate **591** a number of matching identification(s) between the first set of detected WLAN signals and the subsequent set of detected WLAN signals. In particular, the electronic device can compare the initial set of stored identification(s) to the subsequent set of stored identification(s) to determine how many of the initial identification(s) and the subsequent identification(s) match. The electronic device can then determine **593** if the number of matching identification(s) exceeds a corresponding WLAN threshold. It should be appreciated that the WLAN threshold may be a default amount (e.g., three, five, seven matches, etc.) or may be adjusted by a user or operator of the electronic device. Generally, the greater the number of matching identification(s), the greater the chance that the electronic device is being transported via public transportation, as the nearby devices corresponding to the matching identifications will be in range of the electronic device before and after the timeout period. Accordingly, if the number of matching identification(s) exceeds the corresponding WLAN threshold, the electronic device can deem that it is being transported via public transportation and can initiate **597** a public transportation mode. In contrast, if the electronic device determines that the number of matching identification(s) does not meet or exceed the corresponding

## 11

WLAN threshold (“NO”), the electronic device can deem that it is being transported via private vehicle and can initiate **595** a driving mode.

It should be appreciated that the determinations of **575** and **593** may be combined based on a combination of corresponding WLAN and WPAN thresholds and/or weightings of WLAN and WPAN thresholds. For example, the electronic device may determine that it is being transported via public transportation when both number of matching WPAN device IDs exceeds four (4) and the number of matching WLAN device IDs exceeds two (2). For further example, the electronic device may determine that it is being transported via public transportation when  $0.75 \times (\text{the number of matching WLAN device IDs}) + 0.50 \times (\text{the number of matching WPAN device IDs})$  exceeds six (6). Note also that either or both timeout loops may recur to extend the WLAN and/or WPAN device ID matching process across multiple timeout periods.

FIG. 6 illustrates an example interface **676** displayable by a user interface of an electronic device, such as the user interface **103** of the electronic device **105** discussed with respect to FIG. 1. In embodiments, the electronic device may display the interface **676** in response to entering a driving mode (i.e., if the electronic device determines that it is being transported via private vehicle). As illustrated in FIG. 6, the interface **676** indicates two functionalities associated with driving mode: “talk to me” which refers to the electronic device audibly announcing text messages and identifications of calling parties, and “resume music play” which refers to the electronic device pairing with a network connection (e.g., a WPAN connection) of the vehicle and initiating music playback via a device application. It should be appreciated that additional functionalities associated with a driving mode are envisioned.

FIG. 7 illustrates an example interface **778** displayable by a user interface of an electronic device, such as the user interface **103** of the electronic device **105** discussed with respect to FIG. 1. In embodiments, the electronic device may display the interface **778** in response to entering a public transportation mode (i.e., if the electronic device determines that it is being transported via public transportation). As illustrated in FIG. 7, the interface **778** indicates two functionalities associated with public transportation mode: “mute ringer” which refers to the electronic device automatically muting or silencing the ringer of the electronic device when an incoming call is received, and “auto reply” which refers to the electronic device automatically sending a pre-determined reply message (e.g., “I can’t talk right now”) to a calling party if the calling party is included on the favorites list of the electronic device. It should be appreciated that additional functionalities associated with a driving mode are envisioned.

FIG. 8 illustrates an example electronic device **805** (such as the electronic device **105** discussed with respect to FIG. 1, or other devices) in which the functionalities as discussed herein may be implemented. The electronic device **805** can include a processor **816** or other similar type of controller module or microcontroller, as well as a memory **804**. The memory **804** can store an operating system **806** capable of facilitating the functionalities as discussed herein. The memory **804** can also store a first set of device ID(s) **808** corresponding to a first instance of detected devices, a second set of device ID(s) **809** corresponding to a second instance of detected devices, and a set of threshold settings **810** associated with a mode of transportation analysis, a set of device settings **812** associated with various operating modes for the electronic device **805**, and a set of mapping

## 12

data **814**. In embodiments, the threshold settings **810** may include threshold settings for WPAN connections only, WLAN connections only, and/or a combination of WPAN and WLAN connections (as well as any weightings).

The processor **816** can interface with the memory **804** to execute the operating system **806** and a set of applications **880**. The set of applications **880** (which the memory **804** can also store) can include a transportation mode application **882** configured to analyze connection signal data to determine a mode of transportation for the electronic device **805**. The set of applications **880** can also include one or more other applications **884** such as, for example, music and entertainment applications, phone applications, messaging applications, calendar applications, social networking applications, utilities, productivity applications, games, travel applications, communication application, shopping applications, finance applications, sports applications, photography applications, mapping applications, weather applications, applications for connecting to an online marketplace, and/or other applications.

Generally, the memory **804** can include one or more forms of volatile and/or non-volatile, fixed and/or removable memory, such as read-only memory (ROM), electronic programmable read-only memory (EPROM), random access memory (RAM), erasable electronic programmable read-only memory (EEPROM), and/or other hard drives, flash memory, MicroSD cards, and others.

The electronic device **804** can further include a communication module **802** configured to interface with one or more external ports **886** to communicate data via one or more networks **874**. For example, the communication module **802** can leverage the external ports **886** to establish a wide area network for connecting the electronic device **805** to other components such as a remote data server. According to some embodiments, the communication module **802** can include one or more transceivers functioning in accordance with IEEE standards, 3GPP standards, or other standards, and configured to receive and transmit data via the one or more external ports **886**. More particularly, the communication module **802** can include one or more WWAN, WLAN, and/or WPAN transceivers configured to connect the electronic device **805** to wide area networks, local area networks, and/or personal area networks, as well as a connection sensor **828**. The electronic device **805** can further include a set of sensors **822** such as an accelerometer **824** and a location module **826**.

The electronic device **805** may further include a user interface **888** configured to present information to the user and/or receive inputs from the user. As illustrated in FIG. 8, the user interface **888** includes a display screen **892** and I/O components **890** (e.g., capacitive or resistive touch sensitive input panels, keys, buttons, lights, LEDs, cursor control devices, haptic devices, and others). In embodiments, the display screen **892** is a touchscreen display using singular or combinations of display technologies and can include a thin, transparent touch sensor component superimposed upon a display section that is viewable by a user. For example, such displays include capacitive displays, resistive displays, surface acoustic wave (SAW) displays, optical imaging displays, and the like. The user interface **888** may further include an audio module **894** including hardware components such as one or more speakers **898** for outputting audio data and one or more microphones **896** for detecting or receiving audio.

In general, a computer program product in accordance with an embodiment includes a computer usable storage medium (e.g., standard random access memory (RAM), an

13

optical disc, a universal serial bus (USB) drive, or the like) having computer-readable program code embodied therein, wherein the computer-readable program code is adapted to be executed by the processor **816** (e.g., working in connection with the operating system **806**) to facilitate the functions as described herein. In this regard, the program code may be implemented in any desired language, and may be implemented as machine code, assembly code, byte code, interpretable source code or the like (e.g., via C, C++, Java, Actionscript, Objective-C, Javascript, CSS, XML, and/or others).

Thus, it should be clear from the preceding disclosure that the systems and methods offer effective usability of electronic devices. In particular, the embodiments enable accurate transportation mode identification such that appropriate device operating modes may be initiated.

This disclosure is intended to explain how to fashion and use various embodiments in accordance with the technology rather than to limit the true, intended, and fair scope and spirit thereof. The foregoing description is not intended to be exhaustive or to be limited to the precise forms disclosed. Modifications or variations are possible in light of the above teachings. The embodiment(s) were chosen and described to provide the best illustration of the principle of the described technology and its practical application, and to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize the technology in various embodiments and with various modifications as are suited to the particular use contemplated. All such modifications and variations are within the scope of the embodiments as determined by the appended claims, as may be amended during the pendency of this application for patent, and all equivalents thereof, when interpreted in accordance with the breadth to which they are fairly, legally and equitably entitled.

The invention claimed is:

**1.** A method comprising:

determining, by an electronic device and based on movement data, that the electronic device is being transported by a vehicle;

detecting, by the electronic device, at least one of (i) wireless personal area network (WPAN) connection signal data of at least one nearby electronic device to identify a number of the at least one nearby electronic device enabled for WPAN communication, or (ii) wireless local area network (WLAN) connection signal data of the at least one nearby electronic device to identify a number of the at least one nearby electronic device enabled for WLAN communication;

analyzing, by the electronic device, the at least one of the WPAN connection signal data or the WLAN connection signal data to determine that at least one of (i) the number of the at least one nearby electronic device enabled for WPAN communication or (ii) the number of the at least one nearby electronic device enabled for WLAN communication exceeds a threshold value; and responsive to the determining and analyzing, initiating, by the electronic device, a public transportation operating mode for the electronic device.

**2.** The method of claim **1**, wherein analyzing the at least one of the WPAN connection signal data or the WLAN connection signal data comprises:

calculating, based on (i) the number of the at least one nearby electronic device enabled for WPAN communication and (ii) the number of the at least one nearby electronic device enabled for WLAN communication, a total number of the at least one nearby electronic device enabled for wireless communication; and

14

determining that the total number of the at least one nearby electronic device exceeds a particular value.

**3.** The method of claim **2**, wherein calculating the total number of the at least one nearby electronic device comprises:

analyzing respective unique identifiers included in the WPAN connection signal data and the WLAN connection signal data to remove duplicates of the at least one nearby electronic device.

**4.** The method of claim **1**, further comprising:

identifying an available WLAN access point; and determining, while the electronic device is being transported, that the available WLAN access point is available both before and after a threshold period of time, wherein the analyzing is further based on determining that the available WLAN access point is available both before and after the threshold period of time.

**5.** The method of claim **4**, further comprising:

identifying a service set identifier (SSID) of the available WLAN access point; and performing a lexical analysis on the SSID, wherein the analyzing is further based on the lexical analysis on the SSID.

**6.** The method of claim **1**, further comprising:

storing respective unique identifiers included the at least one of the WPAN connection signal data or the WLAN connection signal data.

**7.** The method of claim **1**, further comprising:

retrieving current location data of the electronic device; and

determining that the current location data coincides with a public transportation node, wherein the analyzing is further based on determining that the current location data coincides with the public transportation node.

**8.** The method of claim **1**, wherein initiating the public transportation operating mode for the electronic device comprises:

preventing audio output via a built-in speaker of the electronic device.

**9.** An electronic device comprising:

a wireless location module configured to generate location data associated with the electronic device;

a wireless connection sensor configured to detect at least one of (i) wireless personal area network (WPAN) connection signal data of at least one nearby electronic device to identify a number of the at least one nearby electronic device enabled for WPAN communication, or (ii) wireless local area network (WLAN) connection signal data of the at least one nearby electronic device to identify a number of the at least one nearby electronic device enabled for WLAN communication;

a processor adapted to interface with the wireless location module and the wireless connection sensor, wherein the processor is configured to:

determine, based on the location data from the wireless location module, that the electronic device is being transported by a vehicle,

analyze the at least one of the WPAN connection signal data or the WLAN connection signal data to determine that at least one of (i) the number of the at least one nearby electronic device enabled for WPAN communication or (ii) the number of the at least one nearby electronic device enabled for WLAN communication exceeds a threshold value, and

responsive to the analyzing, initiate a public transportation operating mode for the electronic device.

## 15

10. The electronic device of claim 9, further comprising a memory for storing unique identifiers included in the at least one of the WPAN connection signal data or the WLAN connection signal data.

11. The electronic device of claim 10, wherein the processor is further configured to:

identify, from the at least one of the WPAN connection signal data or the WLAN connection signal data, at least one respective unique identifier of the at least one nearby electronic device, and

cause the memory to store the at least one respective unique identifier.

12. The electronic device of claim 11, further comprising a timer configured to wait for a timeout period, wherein after the timeout period has expired:

the wireless connection sensor is further configured to detect at least one of (i) subsequent WPAN connection signal data of the at least one nearby electronic device or (ii) subsequent WLAN connection signal data of the at least one nearby electronic device; and

the processor is further configured to:

identify, from the at least one of the subsequent WPAN connection signal data or the subsequent WLAN connection signal data, at least one respective additional unique identifier of the at least one nearby electronic device, and

compare the at least one respective unique identifier stored in the memory to the at least one respective additional unique identifier.

13. The electronic device of claim 9, further comprising a memory for storing a set of device settings, wherein the processor is further configured to:

## 16

retrieve, from the set of device settings in the memory, a set of public transportation device settings.

14. The electronic device of claim 13, further comprising a built-in speaker, wherein the set of public transportation device settings includes a setting to prevent audio from being output via the built-in speaker.

15. The electronic device of claim 9, further comprising: an accelerometer configured to generate acceleration data associated with the electronic device,

wherein the processor determines that the electronic device is being transported by the vehicle further based on the acceleration data.

16. The electronic device of claim 9, further comprising a memory for storing mapping data wherein the processor is further configured to:

retrieve, from the memory, a set of mapping data based on the location data; and

determine that the location data coincides with a public transportation node included in the set of mapping data.

17. The electronic device of claim 9, further comprising: a communication module configured to identify an available wireless local area network (WLAN) access point; a memory for storing a set of terms related to public transportation; and

a lexical analyzer configured to:

identify a service set identifier (SSID) of the available WLAN access point, and

compare at least a portion of the SSID to the set of terms related to public transportation.

\* \* \* \* \*